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16. (Amended) A battery comprising:

an electrode assembly;

an external case having a bottom, an inner surface and an outer surface, said external case surrounding said electrode assembly, said inner surface of said external case having an inwardly protruding projection having a first surface area, said outer surface of said external case having an inwardly protruding recess, said recess located so as to correspond with said projection; and

a lead plate having a welding surface area, said lead plate being connected to said electrode assembly, and a portion of said welding surface area being welded to said external case at said first surface area of said projection;

wherein said lead plate is welded to said external case by an energy beam externally applied to said external case; and

wherein said first surface area is smaller than said welding surface area.